

I live in York County Maine, and WGME is a local broadcaster owned by Sinclair Broadcasting. Their decision to compel their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large (and getting larger) companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our local community. Sinclair is a perfect example of why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. If you would solicit meaningful feedback from the community, I predict you would find many people - just regular folk like me - a mother in a two-adult working family with children - would appreciate the opportunity to make note of the decline of local news coverage, community-oriented news and programming. The air waves are a gift and an opportunity for community-building that are being squandered for the sake of a dollar. There are other non-currency considerations that should be taken into account when re-writing regulation of the air waves and renewing the licenses of those who may or may not have rightly earned the privilege to broadcast. Thank you for reading my comments.